

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-12, 14 and 15 remain in the case.

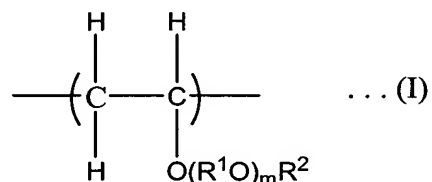
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (5,384,056) or (5,294,356).

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi Glass Company (JP Application No. 2-325617).

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egawa et al. (5,449,472) in combination with Tanaka et al. (5,384,056) or (5,294,356).

The interview kindly granted by the Examiner, Ms. McAvoy, on August 20, 2003 is herewith acknowledged with appreciation. Agreement was reached at said interview that the claims, amended as directed above, patentably distinguishes them over the prior art.

Specifically, the invention to which all of the claims are now limited, relates to a process for producing a high purity polyvinyl ether compounds having a constituting unit represented by general formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may be branched, R² represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may be branched, m represents numbers giving an average value in a range of 0 to 10, R¹O's may represent the same group or different groups when more than one R¹O are present, and R¹, R² and m may be the same with or different from each other among constituting units comprising a step of treating at least one crude polyvinyl ether compound of said general formula (I) with an adsorbent, wherein said adsorbent is silica-

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alumina, activated clay, bentonite or activated carbon, as well as to a product produced thereby.

The only reference relating to the purification of polyvinyl ether compounds, to which all of the claims have now been limited, is Egawa et al. The other references cited and relied upon by the Examiner do not relate to the purification of such compounds, and as acknowledged by the Examiner at said interview, are no longer pertinent. The Examiner combines Egawa et al. with the Tanaka et al. references to assertedly make obvious Applicants' discovery, Egawa et al. not disclosing treatment with an absorbent, particularly as now claimed.

In the discussion with the Examiner, however, she recognized that such combination of references, at best, is based on an "obvious to try" rationale, such not being proper basis for a rejection. The Tanaka et al. references are concerned with basically different lubricating oils, i.e., of polycarbonates, and thus not being properly combinable. Consequently, she reconsidered her position and agreed to allow the claims of the present scope.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is requested.


It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and which is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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